

REMARKS

In response to the Examiner's restriction requirement, applicants elect, with traverse, the invention of Group III, the cable end tightening system shown in Figures 6-7C. The following claims are readable upon the elected invention: claims 37-41.

It is respectfully submitted that the restriction requirement is in error at least as to the invention shown in Figures 10-11. In particular, the invention shown in Figures 10B-11 is related to that of Figures 6-7C in that both are directed to footwear lacing systems for an article of footwear that includes at least one lace end tightening device affixed to the footwear for accommodating an end portion of the lace to provide for adjustments to the tension of the lace. The current claims are generic to both sets of figures, and applicant reserves the right to add further claims after receiving the Examiner's final decision on the restriction requirement.

As to any claims that are currently withdrawn, applicants expressly reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications for the subject matter of those claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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